

## OPINION 1826

***Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829 and *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved by the designation of *Buprestis acuminata* De Geer, 1774 as the type species of *Melanophila***

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; jewel beetles; *Melanophila*; *Phaenops*.

**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
  - (a) all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829 are hereby set aside and *Buprestis acuminata* De Geer, 1774 is designated as the type species;
  - (b) it is hereby ruled that the gender of the generic name *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833 is feminine.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829 (gender: feminine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above *Buprestis acuminata* De Geer, 1774;
  - (b) *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833 (gender: feminine, as ruled in (1)(b) above), type species by designation by Théry (1942) *Buprestis cyanea* Fabricius, 1775.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *acuminata* De Geer, 1774, as published in the binomen *Buprestis acuminata* (specific name of the type species of *Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829);
  - (b) *cyanea* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Buprestis cyanea* (specific name of the type species of *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833).

**History of Case 2837/2**

An application for the conservation of the generic names *Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829 and *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833 by the designation of *Buprestis acuminata* De Geer, 1774 as the type species of *Melanophila* was received from Herr Hans Mühle (Munich, Germany) on 27 November 1991. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 31–34 (March 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Dr Richard L. Westcott (Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, Oregon, U.S.A.) was published in BZN 50: 232–233 (September 1993), together with a reply in support from Dr R.G. Booth (International Institute of Entomology, clo The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.). Dr Booth also pointed out that under Article 30a(ii) of the Code the name *Phaenops* is masculine, although it was treated as feminine by its author and by all subsequent workers. He proposed (BZN 50: 233) that *Phaenops* should continue to be used as feminine.

A reply to Dr Westcott's comment by the author of the application was published in BZN 51: 43–44 (March 1994), together with a further comment from Dr Westcott and an opposing comment from Dr G.H. Nelson (College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Pomona, California, U.S.A.). A comment in support from Drs Svatopluk Bílý (National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic) & C.L. Bellamy (Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, South Africa) was published in BZN 52: 70 (March 1995).

It was noted on the voting paper that the application sought to maintain the usage of the name *Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829 by setting aside the earlier, long overlooked type species designation by Westwood ([1838]) of *Buprestis tarda* Fabricius, 1792 (= *B. cyanea* Fabricius, 1775) and by designating *Buprestis acuminata* De Geer, 1774 as the type. This designation would also conserve the name *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833 (type species *B. cyanea*).

The usage of these generic names is that which has been traditionally followed by most European workers since the publication of Lacordaire (1857). An exception is Leraut (1983), who followed Westwood's ([1838]) type species designation and used the name *Melanophila* for the genus *Phaenops* as currently understood, and adopted the unused name *Trachypteris* Kirby, 1837 (type species *B. decostigma* Fabricius, 1787) for the *decostigma-acuminata* group of species.

Until recently, most workers in the United States, where *B. cyanea* does not occur, included *Phaenops* as a subgenus or as a synonym of *Melanophila*. However, in the past six years (since Nelson, 1989) American workers have used the name *Melanophila* only for the *cyanea*-related group of species, following Leraut (1983) but not in accord with previous (and present European) nomenclature, and have adopted the unused name *Oxypteris* Kirby, 1837 (type species *B. appendiculata* Fabricius, 1792, a junior synonym of *B. acuminata*) for *acuminata* and other species.

#### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1995 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 50: 32–33 and 233. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1995 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 19: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kabata (part), Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahner, Martins de Souza, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin

Negative votes — 6: Bouchet, Corliss, Hahn, Holthuis, Minelli and Štys.

No votes were received from Ride and Uéno.

Kabata voted for the conservation of the generic names *Melanophila* and *Phaenops* but against the proposal to continue to treat the latter as feminine.

#### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*acuminata*, *Buprestis*, De Geer, 1774, *Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire des insectes*, vol. 4, p. 133.

*cyanea*, *Buprestis*, Fabricius, 1775, *Systema entomologiae, sistens insectorum classes, ordines, genera, species ....*, p. 223.

*Melanophila* Eschscholtz, 1829, *Zoologischer Atlas, enthaltend abbildungen und Beschreibungen neuer Thierarten, während des Flottcapitains von Kotzebue zweiter Reise um die Welt, auf der Russisch-Kaiserlichen Kriegsschluup Predpriaetië in den Jahren 1823–1826*, part. 1, p. 9.

*Phaenops* Dejean, 1833, *Catalogue des coléoptères de la collection de M. le Comte Dejean*, Ed. 2, part 1, p. 79.

The following is the reference for the fixation of *Buprestis cyanea* Fabricius, 1775 as the type species of the nominal genus *Phaenops* Dejean, 1833:

Théry, A. 1942. *Faune de France*, 41: 73.